

U. S. SEIZURE OF VERA CRUZ IS REPORTED— MEXICAN-U. S. NEWS BOILED DOWN

DOPE FROM WASHINGTON

"Use your own judgment," was the substance of an order flashed to Admiral Fletcher off Vera Cruz today. It followed instructions previously sent that a shipment of 2,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 250 Krupp guns were expected at Vera Cruz on a German steamer, and that it must not reach Huerta.

Seven members of the diplomatic corps were called into conference with Secretary Bryan this afternoon. It is understood they were to be informed that a blockade was on at all Mexican ports.

It has been made plain by President Wilson that he would object to the resolution passed by the House last night being changed to eliminate special reference to Huerta as the man to be called to account.

Wilson wants congress to differentiate between the Huertaistas and the Mexican people generally, who are not in sympathy with the dictator.

Senator Lodge said there could be no declaration of war against Mexico, as there was no government recognized.

A report is current here that Admiral Fletcher has seized the customs house at Vera Cruz. Secretary of the Navy Daniels said he had no report from the commander of the fleet concerning such action.

Maj. Gen. Wood will not leave Washington tomorrow when he gives up the position of chief of staff of the army. He will remain in Washington two weeks, taking command of the army in the event war is declared.

Shipment of guns and ammunition consigned to Federals is supposed to have been landed at Vera Cruz this morning from a German ship. Landing could not be halted, as no official notice of a blockade has been sent to the powers. Only possibility of stopping the delivery lay in Admiral

Fletcher seizing the custom house. The cabinet is believed to have considered issuing such instructions.

Secretary of State Bryan admitted that a general American exodus from Mexico City is on. Americans are leaving for Vera Cruz on special trains as fast as they can be arranged for.

The navy department ordered the torpedo flotilla at Pensacola to proceed to Vera Cruz instead of Tampico. Probable that troops will be detached by Gen. Bliss to guard Americans in towns immediately on northern border of Mexico. Messages have been received from two cities detailing fear of massacre by inflamed Mexican residents.

Mexico City.—Sir Lionel Carden, former British minister to Mexico, who has great influence with Huerta, expected here today. He may be able to persuade Huerta to grant the salute. The diplomatic corps conferred with Foreign Minister Portillo. Huerta was not present and is taking no official part in the negotiations.

San Antonio, Tex.—Armed guard placed around arsenal to prevent outbreak among Mexicans. Huerta sympathizers here numerous.

Vera Cruz.—Eight-seven American refugees, including both men and women, are aboard ships Mexico and Esperanza, chartered by U. S. government.

Marblehead, Mass.—Work is being pushed on hydro-aeroplanes for use in both branches of service. Two are ready for service.

Vera Cruz.—Admiral Craddock of British fleet ordered British oil steamer El Zorra to refuse to carry ammunition to federal forces at Tampico. Explained that England's friend-